



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

The most drastic duck-hunting rules since 1938 were released today for the 1946 hunting season by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug.

Reductions in the hunting season from 80 to 45 days, in the daily bag limit from 10 to 7 and possession limit from 20 to 14, and in shooting hours, featured the announcement of the new regulations which will govern this season's shooting.

Adopted by Secretary Krug in accordance with an act of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the amended regulations were approved by President Truman. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service after biological investigations and consultations with State game administrators.

"The population of most species of wild ducks has declined within the past two years from a peak of 125,350,000 in 1944 to 80 million birds—a dangerous level," Secretary Krug said. "Drought conditions in the north central states and the prairie provinces, together with overshooting last season when more ducks were shot than were hatched and raised, are contributing factors.

"With a 36 per cent decrease in ducks coupled with a 50 per cent increase in the number of hunters from 1944 to 1946, we invite disaster if we dig any deeper into our breeding stocks. American sportsmen must take a smaller portion of ducks and geese during the 1946 season so that more breeders will be left to fly north in the spring of 1947."

Salient features of the 1946 regulations include:

The waterfowl hunting season runs from October 5 to November 18 in the northern zone; from October 26 to December 9 in the intermediate zone; and from November 23 to January 6 in the southern zone.

At the request of State game officials, Kentucky has been transferred to the southern zone; and Iowa, Montana, and Ohio to the intermediate zone.

The daily bag limit for wild ducks has been reduced from 10 a day and 20 in possession, to 7 a day and 14 in possession. The daily bag and possession limits for geese have been reduced to two of any kind in any combination, including brant, plus two snow geese or two blue geese, singly or in the aggregate.

The length of the shooting day for waterfowl, coot, rails, and gallinules has been shortened by one-half hour on the closing end. In 1946 it will run from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset.

The open seasons for rails and gallinules conform with the waterfowl and coot seasons in Maine, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and New York.

The seasons for scoters in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, have been extended in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island.

In Lake and McHenry counties in Illinois, the early opening date for coot shooting has been continued.

Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming have been added to the list of States in which the season for shooting wood ducks has been closed.

Canada geese have decreased to such an extent along the Mississippi flyway that a closed season for this species has been prescribed as a conservation measure in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

As another step in the efforts to save the rare Trumpeter Swan from extinction, a closed season on snow geese in Wyoming has been established at the suggestion of the Game and Fish Commission. This will prevent the mistaken shooting of the swans for snow geese.

The season for woodcock in Connecticut will be from October 19 to November 2 instead of from October 20 to November 3. In the middle zone in New York the season for this species will extend from October 21 to November 4 instead of from October 15 to October 29, with shooting starting throughout that State at 12 o'clock noon on the opening day and continuing until sunset, and thereafter from 7:00 a.m. until sunset.

Mourning dove seasons have been changed in Broward County in Florida, in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and five counties in Texas have been added to the northern zone.

In order to reduce the kill of white-winged doves in the 21 counties in Texas where hunting is permitted, shooting will be allowed on 3 days only instead of 5 days as last year, from 4:00 p.m. until sunset, instead of from 12 o'clock noon to sunset. The same shooting hours are applicable to mourning doves in 12 of these counties on September 13, 15, and 17.

Band-tailed pigeon seasons have been changed in California and Washington and the season in Colorado has been closed.

The post-season period for possession of migratory game birds remains the same as last year--90 days.

The regulations do not authorize the taking of waterfowl by means of bait or with the aid of live duck or goose decoys.

OPEN SEASONS

No open season is provided on snow geese or on Ross' geese and swans in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison counties in Montana, in Idaho, Wyoming, and in States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean.

The open seasons for wild ducks, geese, brant, and coot are as follows, both dates inclusive:

Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin, October 5 to November 18.

California, in San Bernadino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, November 23 to January 6; in remainder of State, October 26 to December 9.

Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois (except coot in Lake and McHenry Counties), Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York (except certain hereinafter designated portions of Essex, Clinton, and Washington Counties) including Long Island, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming, October 26 to December 9.

New York, in Essex and Clinton Counties east of the tracks of the main line of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad and that part of Washington County east of the aforesaid tracks from the Essex County line to the village of Whitehall and north of the branch line tracks of said railroad from the village of Whitehall, New York to Fair Haven, Vermont and all the waters of South Bay and one mile distant from such water in any direction, October 5 to November 18,

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, November 23 to January 6,

Texas, on those portions of Lake Texhoma in Cooke and Grayson Counties, October 26 to December 9; in remainder of State, November 23 to January 6.

Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

Alaska, in Fur Districts 1 and 3 as defined in the regulations governing the taking of game in Alaska, adopted May 15, 1944 (9 F.R. 5270), October 1 to November 14; in the remainder of Alaska, September 1 to October 15.

Scoters, locally known as sea coots, may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine and New Hampshire from September 15 to October 4; and in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York including Long Island, and Rhode Island, from September 15 to October 25, and thereafter from land or water during the open seasons for other waterfowl in those States.

Wood duck.—No open season in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Canada geese, including Hutchins and cackling geese, and white-fronted geese.—No open season in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Coot.—In Lake and McHenry Counties, Illinois, October 1 to October 13 and from October 26 to December 9.

Rails and Gallinules (except Coot).—The open season on rails and gallinules (except coot) shall be from September 1 to November 30, both dates inclusive, except as follows:

Alabama, November 20 to January 31.
Louisiana, September 15 to December 15.
Maine and Wisconsin, October 5 to November 18.
Maryland, September 1 to October 31.
Massachusetts and New York, including Long Island,
October 26 to December 9.

Minnesota, September 16 to November 30.
Mississippi, October 15 to December 30.
Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.
California, District of Columbia, Hawali, Idaho, Iowa,
Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, no open
season.

Woodcock.—The open seasons on woodcock shall be as follows, both dates in-
clusive:

Arkansas and Oklahoma, December 1 to December 15.
Connecticut, October 19 to November 2.
Delaware and Maryland, November 15 to November 29.
Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, December 15 to
December 29.
Indiana and West Virginia, October 16 to October 30.
Maine, in Aroostock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset,
Franklin, and Oxford Counties, October 1 to October 15; in
remainder of State, October 16 to October 30.
Massachusetts and New Jersey, October 20 to November 3.
Michigan, in Upper Peninsula, October 1 to October 15;
in remainder of State, October 15 to October 29.
Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, October 10
to October 24.
Missouri, November 10 to November 24.
New Hampshire, in Coos, Carroll, and Grafton Counties,
October 1 to October 15; in remainder of State, October 16
to October 30.
New York, north and east of the tracks of the branch line
of the New York Central Railroad from Oswego to Syracuse, the
main line of the New York Central Railroad from Syracuse to
Albany, and the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad from
Albany to the Massachusetts State line, October 10 to October
24; west and south of the line above described, October 21 to
November 4; and that part of New York known as Long Island,
November 1 to November 15; from 12 o'clock noon until sunset
on the opening day in each of these zones, and thereafter in
all of the aforesaid zones from 7:00 a.m. until sunset.
Rhode Island, November 1 to November 15.
Vermont, in Bennington and Windham Counties and those por-
tions of Rutland and Windsor Counties south of U. S. Highway
Route 4 from West Haven to White River Junction, October 16 to
October 30; in remainder of State, October 1 to October 15.
Virginia, November 20 to December 4.

Mourning, or Turtle, Dove.—The open seasons on mourning, or turtle, dove
shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona, California, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, September
1 to October 30.
Alabama and Louisiana, October 1 to October 15, and December 18
to January 31.
Arkansas and Mississippi, September 16 to September 30, and
December 18 to January 31.
Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico, September 1 to October 12.
Delaware and Tennessee, September 16 to November 14.

Florida, in Broward, Dade and Monroe Counties, October 1 to October 31; in remainder of State, November 20 to January 18.

Georgia, in Muscogee, Taylor, Crawford, Bibb, Jones, Baldwin, Hancock, Warren, McDuffie, and Columbia Counties and all counties north thereof, September 16 to September 30; in the above described counties and throughout the State, December 18 to January 31.

Idaho and Oregon, September 1 to September 15.

Illinois, September 1 to September 30.

Kentucky, September 1 to October 25.

Maryland, September 1 to October 15.

Minnesota, September 16 to September 30.

North Carolina, September 16 to September 30, and December 2 to January 15.

Pennsylvania, November 1 to November 30.

South Carolina, September 16 to October 15 and December 23 to January 22.

Texas, in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Kendall, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, and Shelby Counties, and all counties north and west thereof, September 1 to October 30; in remainder of State (but not including Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, LaSalle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy Counties), October 20 to December 18; in these latter counties, September 13, 15 and 17, from 4:00 p.m. until sunset, and thereafter, October 20 to December 13, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Virginia, September 16 to October 31.

White-winged Dove.—The open seasons on white-winged dove shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona, September 1 to September 15.

Texas, in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Kinney, Dimmit, LaSalle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Willacy, Val Verde, Terrell, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth, and El Paso Counties, September 13, 15 and 17 from 4:00 p.m. until sunset.

Band-tailed Pigeon.—The open seasons on band-tailed pigeon shall be as follows, both dates inclusive:

Arizona and New Mexico, September 16 to October 15.

California, Oregon, and Washington, September 1 to September 30.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

On the opening day of the season no person may possess any migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limits.

Daily bag limits on ducks (except the American and red-breasted mergansers) are 7 in the aggregate of all kinds, including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck. Any person at any time may possess not more than 14 ducks, including not more than 1 wood duck.

The daily bag limit on geese and brant (except snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, in Idaho, in Wyoming, and in States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean; Canada geese, including Hutchins and cackling

geese, and white-fronted geese in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; and Ross' geese anywhere) is 2 of any kind in any combination, including brant, plus 2 snow geese or 2 blue geese singly or in the aggregate. No person may possess more than these limits.

Rails and gallinules (except sora and coot).--Fifteen in the aggregate of all kinds, and any person may possess not more than 15 in the aggregate of all kinds.

Coot.--Twenty-five, and any person may possess not more than 25.

Sora.--Twenty-five, and any person may possess not more than 25.

Woodcock.--Four, and any person may possess not more than 8.

Mourning or turtle dove and white-winged dove.--Ten in the aggregate of both kinds, and any person may possess not more than 10 mourning doves or more than 10 white-winged doves.

Band-tailed pigeon.--Ten, and any person may possess not more than 10.

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